

Listing of Claims on File:C L A I M S

1. (original) A method of manufacturing a product having a plurality of components where at least some of the components are manufactured by different companies at differing locations, the method comprising the steps of:

developing an electronic specification describing the product and its components;

forwarding the electronic specification to one of the several companies;

the specific company building the component or product in accordance with requirements in the electronic specification;

the specific company testing the component or product;

the specific company appending the test results to the electronic specification;

the specific company determining if the product is completed; and

either shipping the completed product to the customer or forwarding the electronic specification with appended test results to another one of the several companies.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the forwarding step includes the step of providing a central server to centralize the forwarding step.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 including the further step of providing a bill of materials for the components and the product at the time the electronic specification is developed.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 including the further step of periodically comparing the bill of materials to the electronic specification to verify the accuracy of both.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 including the further step of saving at least one updated version of the electronic specification.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 including the further step of comparing the updated version of the electronic specification with an electronic specification having appended test results.

7. (original) The method of claim 5 including the further step of revising the updated version to include late customer changes.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 including the further step of comparing the revised updated version of the electronic specification with an electronic specification having appended test results;

wherein the comparing step includes the steps of determining and implementing late customer changes to the electronic specification in the product or components.

9. (original) A method of integrating the manufacture of a product by a plurality of businesses, the method comprising:

generating a sales order in an electronic form;  
converting the sales order to an electronic build

document;

transferring the electronic build document to a first company for the construction of a first subassembly for the product;

testing the subassembly of the first company;  
attaching the test results to the electronic build

document;

forwarding the electronic build document to a second company for main assembly;

attaching a communications bus to the product;  
testing the operability of the bus;  
adding the bus operability test results to the  
electronic build document;  
attaching the first subassembly to the bus;  
testing the operability of the first subassembly and the  
bus;  
attaching the subassembly and bus operability test  
results to the electronic build document; and  
shipping the product.

10. (original) A method of doing business comprising:  
generating a sales order representative of a product;  
developing build and test instructions from the sales  
order;  
developing an installation sequence from the build and  
test instructions; and  
building the product using the build and test  
instructions in the sequence laid out by the installation sequence.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the  
developing and building steps are performed under the control of a control  
device.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the product  
includes a communications bus, and input and output components to be  
operably linked to the bus.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the  
developing an installation sequence step is accomplished by a tester  
device which also oversees the building step.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the building step includes the further steps of:

calling for the next input or output component to be operably connected to the communication bus as identified by the installation sequence; and

verifying the operability of the component and the bus.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 including the further steps of:

receiving a first signal from the component by means of the bus;

determining a unique identity for the signaling component; and

responding, by means of the bus, with a second signal to the component providing the component with an identity.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the responding step further includes the step of providing the signaling component with operational parameters.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the generating step includes the further step of creating a bill of materials and a specification.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the developing the build and test instruction step includes the further step of using the specification to create a build and test file.

19. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein the build and test file is in the xml format.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein the installation sequence developing step includes the further step of cross checking the installation sequence with the specification.

21. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the installation developing sequence includes a further step of cross checking the bill of materials with the installation sequence.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the verifying step includes the further steps of testing the operation of the communications bus, testing the operation of the component, and cross checking the identity, parameters and operation of the component and the bus with the specification.

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